

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Sanctuary Superintendent's Report

January 2015

A report for the Sanctuary Advisory Council

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Sanctuary Superintendent's Report highlights recent accomplishments and activities from program areas at the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS or sanctuary). This report is also available online at channelislands.noaa.gov.

Department of Commerce Gold Medal Recognizes NOAA Teamwork to Protect Whales by Moving Shipping Lanes in/near California National Marine Sanctuaries, including CINMS

On December 18th NOAA Administrator Dr. Kathy Sullivan announced the award of a Department of Commerce Gold Medal to recognize a group of NOAA staff whose teamwork was instrumental in the International Maritime Organization changing the placement of shipping lanes within and around four California national marine sanctuaries to improve protection to endangered whales while supporting maritime trade and commerce. The highest honor bestowed by the Secretary of Commerce, a Gold Medal recognizes distinguished performance characterized by extraordinary, notable, or prestigious contributions that impact the mission of the Department and/or one operating unit and reflect favorably on the Department. The recognized accomplishment involved years of teamwork and coordination by staff from Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS), Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS), Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS), the West Coast Regional Office for National Marine Sanctuaries, the Protected Resources Division at NOAA Fisheries' West Coast Regional Office, the NOAA Fisheries Southwest Regional Fisheries Science Center, the NOAA Office of International Affairs, and NOAA's General Counsel International Section, along with several non-NOAA partners/scientists, and conducted in close partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard. Also instrumental was whale sightings data collected by the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps and marine excursion vessel operators, along with support and advice from sanctuary advisory councils. Congratulations to Sean Hastings as the CINMS representative on this award, and to Michael Carver (CBNMS), Karen Reyna (GFNMS) and Lisa Wooninck from ONMS, as well as

ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Designated in 1980, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary consists of an area off the coast of California of approximately 1,470 square miles adjacent to the following islands and offshore rocks: San Miguel Island, Santa Rosa Island, Santa Cruz Island, Anacapa Island, Santa Barbara Island, Richardson Rock, and Castle Rock, extending seaward to a distance of approximately six nautical miles. The islands vary in distance from 12 to 40 nautical miles offshore from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties in southern California. A fertile combination of warm and cool currents in this area results in a great variety of plants and animals including kelp forests, fish, invertebrates, marine mammals and sea birds. The sanctuary also contains a wealth of maritime heritage resources including Chumash Native American artifacts and over 100 historic shipwrecks. Human uses in the area include commercial and recreational fishing, marine wildlife viewing, boating, diving, kayaking, Chumash maritime and cultural practices, maritime shipping, nearby offshore oil and gas development, research and monitoring, and numerous educational activities. Sanctuary staff coordinate research, monitoring, education, outreach, emergency response, and community involvement programs, as well as the enforcement of regulations, to promote long term resource protection and compatible human use within the sanctuary.

others recognized: Jessica Redfern, Monica DeAngelis, Elizabeth Petras (CINMS Advisory Council member!), Stephanie Altman, and Trisha Bergmann. Although award rules prevented more names from being listed, it is accepted on behalf of all those that contributed to whale conservation work within and around CINMS and other California sanctuaries.

NOAA Corps Officer LT Lyndsey Davis Departs Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

On January 12, 2015, after 3.5 years of service at Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary serving as Vessel Operations Coordinator, NOAA Corps Officer LT Lyndsey Davis moved on to her next assignment aboard the *Nancy Foster* out of South Carolina. While at CINMS LT Davis helped the sanctuary maintain a very safe and productive vessel operations program and dive unit, and earned the respect of all staff and partners. She will be greatly missed, but fortunately she has cross-trained her replacement over the last two months, LTJG Elizabeth (Libby) Mackie.

EDUCATION, OUTREACH, AND VOLUNTEERS

19 Educators Trained for MERITO Academy; Will Reach 570 STEM-Underrepresented Students

On December 12, 2014 the MERITO (Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans) Foundation in partnership with Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) trained 19 educators during the 9th annual MERITO Academy Educators Workshop held at the Channel Islands Boating Center (CIBC). These educators will teach the MERITO Academy curriculum to their students during the remainder of the current school year. Even without being able to sponsor transportation to the Channel Islands this year (insufficient program funding), 25 applications were submitted for the program. Available resource allowed for 19 to be accepted. All trained educators will receive year-round support on the use of the curriculum, and in-class presentations by MERITO Foundation staff. (Sponsorship of field trips will be provided if additional funding can be secured within the next 3 months). On January 30, 2015 the participating educators will receive additional training at Coal Oil Point Reserve by MERITO Foundation and CINMS staff. The focal theme will be citizen science through the use of the MERITO Academy curriculum. Educators will be trained on implementation of the national marine sanctuaries' LiMPETS program (Long-term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students), as well as water quality monitoring, seabird and plant phenology monitoring, and data entry procedures for national and regional citizen science databases. The MERITO Academy Educators Workshop was funded by contributions from CINMS, ONMS and the MERITO Foundation. For more information contact Rocio.Lozano@noaa.gov.

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Celebrates Underwater Parks Day

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary celebrated Underwater Parks Day on Saturday, January 10th at the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific and on Saturday, January 17th at the Ty Warner Sea Center in Santa Barbara. Underwater Parks Day is dedicated to educating the public about marine protected areas (MPAs) and California's landmark initiative to establish a network of MPAs along its entire coast. Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary staff educated visitors about Channel Islands MPAs, including ways to visit MPAs and learn about monitoring and research programs. Over 7,000 visitors were estimated to have attended these Underwater Parks Day festivals.

RESEARCH, MONITORING AND VESSEL OPERATIONS

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) Completes Successful Shipwreck Expedition

From November 17-21, 2014, a five-day shipwreck reconnaissance expedition was conducted within and adjacent to Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS). Robert Schwemmer, West Coast Regional Maritime Heritage Coordinator, served as principal investigator, working a dive team that included Lyndsey Davis and Elizabeth (Libby) Mackie from CINMS, NPS Ranger Ian Williams with Channel Islands National Park, and volunteer Patrick Smith with the Coastal Maritime Archaeology Resources organization. The science team investigated a recently discovered shipwreck site of the steam-scow wrecker *San Pedro* at Cojo Anchorage, near Point Conception. Historic accounts suggest the wrecker and crew were salvaging machinery from several shipwrecks in southern California including the California Gold Rush side-wheel passenger steamer *Winfield Scott* and British sailing bark *Goldenhorn*, which are located in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. At the time of the loss 120 years ago in November 1894, the *San Pedro* caught fire and sank while recovering the coal cargo from the British sailing bark *Gosford* that was lost a year earlier in 1893, at Cojo Anchorage. The dive team measured and documented 19th century machinery associated with a side-wheel steamer that was part of *San Pedro*'s salvaged cargo. Further research will be conducted to determine if the machinery is associated with the *Winfield Scott* (1853), or possibly a second Gold Rush steamer the *Yankee Blade* (1854) lost north of Point Conception. While in the western Santa Barbara Channel the team made a site visit to Richardson Rock located in the sanctuary off San Miguel Island to attempt to record the possible submerged remains of an aid-to-navigation tower erected on the rock which became operational in 1912, but was later knocked over in a storm in 1939. The remainder of the five-day expedition, divers conducted monitoring dives on the passenger-cargo steamer *Cuba* lost at Point Bennett, San Miguel Island; a Grumman AF-2W Guardian antisubmarine patrol plane lost off Santa Cruz Island; the fishing vessel *Equator* lost on its maiden voyage in 1949 at Anacapa Island and a former WWII era minesweeper named *Spirit of America* lost at Santa Cruz Island.

Partnership Development with California State University Channel Islands

California State University Channel Islands has agreed to become the first official partner of the proposed Center of Excellence for Unmanned Technologies developing at Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Staff from the Center and CINMS met with University officials that included President Richard Rush. Opportunities for partnerships in research, data processing, teaching, and autonomous system development were discussed and a general partnership agreed upon. Follow-up meetings to discuss details will begin in January along with the development of an official Memorandum of Understanding.

Sanctuary Staff

Chris Mobley – *Superintendent*
Shauna Bingham – *Volunteer Program & Outreach Coordinator*
Julie Bursek – *Team Leader for Education and Outreach*
Chris Caldwell – *Research Coordinator*
Laura Francis – *Education Coordinator*
Ryan Freedman – *California Sea Grant Fellow*
Sean Hastings – *Resource Protection Coordinator*
Sean Herron – *California Sea Grant Fellow*
Todd Jacobs – *Deputy Superintendent for Administration and Operations*
Charles Lara – *Vessel Captain*
Julia Leo – *Presidential Management Fellow (Jan-May 2015)*
Rocío Lozano de Knowlton – *MERITO Program Coordinator*
Elizabeth Mackie – *Vessel Operations Coordinator*
Michael Murray – *Deputy Superintendent for Programs*
Robert Schwemmer – *Regional Maritime Heritage Coordinator*
Terrence Shinn – *Vessel Captain*
Rebecca Young – *Program Support Specialist*

ONMS West Coast Region Staff

William Douros – *Regional Director*
Lisa Wooninck – *Policy Coordinator*
Nicole Capps – *Management Support Specialist*
Dave Lott – *Operations Coordinator*

Local ONMS Staff

Claire Fackler – *West Coast Education Liaison*
Sarah Marquis – *West Coast Media Coordinator*
Matt Pickett – *ONMS Aviation Coordinator*
Amy Cale-Huebner – *Exhibit Designer & Kiosk Developer*

Learn More About Your Sanctuary

This report is produced in conjunction with every other bi-monthly Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting. To learn more about the sanctuary please visit our web site at: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov>. To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/welcome.html>.

Follow CINMS
on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ChannelIslandsNMS>)
and Twitter (https://twitter.com/noaa_cinms)

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS)

The National Marine Sanctuary System consists of 14 marine protected areas that encompass more than 170,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington State to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The system includes 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. The ONMS, which manages the system, was established under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972. Visit the ONMS web site at: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/>.

Get involved and stay informed!

Follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/NOAA_CINMS and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/channelislandsnms

Sign up for the CINMS listserv to receive email notices about upcoming sanctuary events, and public meetings of the Sanctuary Advisory Council and its working groups:
<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/list.html>

- Contact Information -

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